Serial No. 10/530,947 Docket No. 4819-4740

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

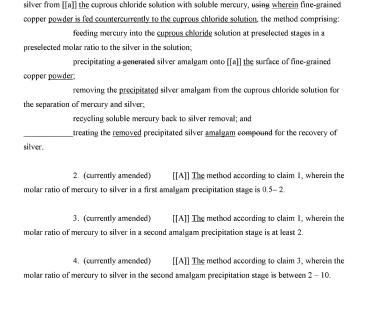
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

chloride solution in a copper recovery process, comprising removing, in at least two stages,

A method for the removal of silver from a cuprous

## Listing of Claims:

(currently amended)



Serial No. 10/530,947 Docket No. 4819-4740

5. (currently amended) [[A]] <u>The</u> method according to claim 1, wherein the particle-size of the fine-grained copper powder has a particle size of is less than 200 μm.

- (currently amended) [[A]] <u>The</u> method according to claim 5, wherein the amount of <u>fine-grained</u> copper powder <u>being countercurrently fed</u> <del>feed</del> is in the range of 100 g/L.
- 7. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according claim 1, further comprising feeding the <u>fine-grained</u> copper powder <u>countercurrently</u> to a mercury removal stage after <u>the at least two</u> silver removal stages, <u>from which it moves countercurrently in relation to</u> the solution flow.
- 8. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, further emprising wherein the treating step comprises leaching the precipitated silver amalgam into a dilute chloride solution using an oxidant, whereby the mercury dissolves as mercury chloride and the silver precipitates as silver chloride.
- (currently amended) [[A]] <u>The</u> method according to claim 8, wherein the oxidant used is sodium hypochlorite.
- 10. (currently amended) [[A]] <u>The</u> method according to claim 8, wherein the oxidant used is hydrogen peroxide.
- 11. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 8, wherein the oxidant used is oxygen.
- 12. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 8, further comprising routing the dissolved mercury chloride back to the silver leaching step.
- 13. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 8, further comprising routing the silver chloride to a silver recovery step.

Serial No. 10/530,947 Docket No. 4819-4740

14. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 8, wherein an the alkali chloride content of the concentrated dilute chloride solution in the leaching step is at least 200 g/L.

- 15. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein an amount of monovalent copper in the cuprous chloride solution to be purified is comprises 30 100 g/L of monovalent copper.
- 16. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein silver-removal is performed at a the cuprous chloride solution has pH value of 1 5 in the precipitating and removing steps.
- 17. (currently amended) [[A]] <u>The</u> method according to claim 1, further comprising removing silver from the cuprous chloride solution using fine-grained copper <u>powder</u> in a stage prior to the <u>before at least two silver</u> amalgam precipitation <u>stages</u> occurs-with mercury.
- 18. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 17, wherein the particle size of the fine-grained copper powder has a particle size of is less than 200 μm.
- 19. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 18, wherein the amount of fine-grained copper powder being countercurrently fed feed is in the range of 100 g/L.